

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Inventor(s): MAX

Appln. No.: 09

Series Code ↑

941,545

Serial No. ↑

Filed: August 30, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Group Art Unit 1764

Examiner: (Unknown)

Atty. Dkt. P 281123

M#

Client Ref

Appln. Title: IMPROVED HYDRATE DESALINATION
FOR WATER PURIFICATION

Sir:

REPLY/AMENDMENT/LETTER

Date: June 17, 2002

RECEIVED
JUN 18 2002
TC 1700

This is a reply/amendment/letter in the above-identified application and includes the herewith attachment of same date and subject which is incorporated hereinto by reference and the signature below is treated as the signature to the attachment in absence of a signature thereto.

FEE REQUIREMENTS FOR CLAIMS AS AMENDED

1. Small Entity claim	Claims remaining after amendment	Highest number previously paid for	Present Extra	Large/Small Entity	Additional Fee	Fee Code Lg/Sm
A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT made B. <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn C. <input type="checkbox"/> made herewith D. <input type="checkbox"/> made previously						
For B & C See <u>Required Separate Paper</u> (Pat-256)						
2. Total Effective Claims	13	**minus 20	0	x \$18/\$9 =	+ \$0	103/203
3. Independent Claims	3	***minus 3	0	x \$84/\$42 =	+ \$0	102/202
4. If amendment enters <u>proper</u> multiple dependent claim(s) into this application for <u>first</u> time (leave <u>blank</u> if this is a <u>reissue</u> application)..... add				+ \$280/\$140 =	+ \$0	104/204
5. <u>Original due Date:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE					
6. <u>Petition is hereby made</u> to extend the original due date to cover the date this response is filed for which the requisite fee is attached	(1 mo)	\$110/\$55 =				115/215
	(2 mos)	\$400/\$200 =		+ \$0		116/216
	(3 mos)	\$920/\$460 =				117/217
	(Usable <u>only</u> for ≤ 2mo.OA --- 4 mos)	\$1,440/\$720=				118/218
	(Usable <u>only</u> for 30 day/1mo.OA --- 5 mos)	\$1,960/\$980=				128/228
7. Enter any previous extension fee paid since above <u>original due date</u> and <u>subtract</u>	- \$0					
8.	Extension Fee + \$0					
9. If <u>Terminal Disclaimer</u> attached, add Rule 20(d) official fee	+ \$110/\$55 + \$0 148/248					
10. If IDS attached requires Official Fee under Rule 97 (c), add	+ \$180 + \$0 126					
or if Rule 97(d) Request add	+ \$180 + \$0 126					
11. After-Final Request Fee per rules 129(a) and 17(r)	+ \$740/370 + \$0 146/246					
12. No. of additional inventions for examination per Rule 129(b).....	x \$740/370 ea + \$0 149/249					
13. Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	+ \$740/370 + \$0 1179/1279					
14. Petition fee for	+ \$0					
15.	TOTAL FEE = \$0					

PLEASE CHARGE
OUR DEP. ACCT.

16. *If the entry in this space is less than entry in next space, the "Present Extra" result is "0".

17. **If the "Highest number previously paid for" in this space is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

18. ***If the "Highest number previously paid for" in this space is less than 3, write "3" in this space.

Our Deposit Account No. 03-3975)

(Our Order No. 18984 281123

C#

M#

CHARGE STATEMENT: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any missing or insufficient fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under Rules 16-18 (missing or insufficiencies only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting Official Document under Rule 20, or credit any overpayment, to our Accounting/Order Nos. shown above, for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

This CHARGE STATEMENT does not authorize charge of the issue fee until/unless an issue fee transmittal sheet is filed.

Query: Is appeal deadline now? If so, file Notice of Appeals separately.

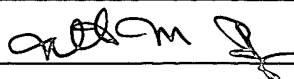
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NOTE: File this cover sheet in duplicate with PTO receipt (PAT-103A) and attachments



8/a

J.W.

AL -

6-18-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

MAX

Group Art Unit: 1764

Appln. No.: 09/941,545

Examiner: (Unknown)

Filed: August 30, 2001

Title: IMPROVED HYDRATE DESALINATION FOR WATER PURIFICATION

June 18, 2002

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED
JUN 18 2002
TC 1700

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the patent Application identified above, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the following amended claim:

1. (Amended) A method of desalinating or purifying saltwater or otherwise polluted water-to-be-treated via hydrate fractionation, said method comprising:

introducing said water-to-be-treated into a hydrate fractionation column;

injecting a hydrate-forming gas or mixture of gases into said water-to-be-treated under temperature and pressure conditions conducive to the formation of gas hydrate, whereupon said gas or mixture of gases reacts with said water-to-be-treated at a point of hydrate formation to yield gas hydrate and residual fluid while liberating heat of hydrate formation which tends to warm said residual fluid; and

allowing said gas hydrate to rise through said hydrate fractionation column and to enter a hydrate dissociation region in which said gas hydrate dissociates and releases fresh water and said hydrate-forming gas or mixture of gasses;